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From Joe to Schmoe: Classifications of Online Dating Profiles

“Just looking”, “Geek seeks Chick”, “Like to ride?” these online dating profile tags probably leave a girl wanting more. “Romeo seeks Juliet” and “Captain needs Copilot” are trying a little too hard to get a girl’s attention. In this day and age, online dating has become a very popular way to look for love. After looking at thousands upon thousands of online dating profiles, it is easy to quickly classify men’s online dating profiles.

Overall, people turn to online dating for one reason, they are trying to find another single person in their area whom they have yet to meet in their day to day lives. Hundreds of websites offer to help the lonely to the desperate find a compatible companion. One thing that all these websites have in common is the personal dating profile. While each site asks a variety of questions, the core information remains the same. Nearly all sites ask profile creators to share their age, location, occupation, height, education, kids, ethnicity, religion, as well as how often a user smokes and drinks. In the article *Tall, Dark and Dishonest*, the study indicates that nine in ten people lied in their online profiles. However, the lies told were very small in that a few inches and less than ten pounds would never be discovered by other site members. While it is important to acknowledge that any amount of the information can be untrue, the majority of the people looking for love online are more truthful than not. This is especially true when using sites that require members to pay for use of service like Match.com and eHarmony. Many people rewrite and update their profiles to give a better reflection of their current self (Yurchisin 739). While all sites will let someone post a profile for free, most sites require membership to receive matches and communicate with other members. Once a member starts looking for a love connection, they will run across a variety of online dating profiles.

It seems as though the small majority of men looking for women online would be Genuine Joes. These guys are online to truly look for someone they are compatible with and possibly have a meaningful relationship. They answer dating service questions honestly and completely. They are willing to share details about their lives that others are not. Genuine Joes are willing to spend the time and money to use online dating sites to their full potential.

Distant Dan is quickly identifiable by a glance at his location. He typically lives so far away that there is virtually no chance of ever meeting him in person. These guys are pretty cowardly in their quest. It is as if they intentionally find some one who lives far away so that possibly she would send money for him to travel to meet her. But basically, Distant Dan has no intention of ever meeting face to face. Be especially cautious if Distant Dan is on another continent!

Outdoor Otto likes to spend “as much time as possible” doing anything outdoors. His entire profile is devoted to listing off the things he likes to do outside, or he does so many things outdoors that he couldn’t possibly list them all. “Dear Outdoor Otto, Are you housebroken?” True online daters should seriously question this guy’s ability to function in indoor environments. Does he have an indoor speaking voice? Can he be taken to the theatre? Dating Outdoor Otto might not be worth the risk of potential embarrassment.

Hunter Hank is easily identified by all of the dead animals in his profile pictures. One should be careful to note the types of animals in his pictures. If all the pictures are of one type of animal, then it might be safe to assume that hunting is merely a hobby. But, if Hunter Hank has pictures of more than four different types of hunts, then one should assume that an additional room will be built on to the house for all his “trophies.” It would also be a safe bet that he will miss a lot of evening meals, weekends and holidays to spend time with his hunting buddies.

Technology Trent can be easily spotted when reading the eHarmony question, “What five things can’t you live without?” Under this question Technology Trent answered, “my iPod, my laptop, my Blackberry, Facebook, and the internet.” While some girls might really be into pasty white guys, they should be prepared for the majority of their communications to occur in an online format. It would also be safe to assume that Technology Trent sends electronic cards and virtual flowers!

Ladies, watch out for Technology Trent’s friend, Videogame Virgil, who owns every gaming system on the market! Videogame Virgil will need a few hours of downtime after work each evening to check in with his online gaming geeks. The most unusual thing about Videogame Virgil is that he will think he’s an athlete simply because he plays one on television. While it is important for everyone to have hobbies, be sure he can still find time in his schedule for dating.

Pet Freak Paul will not be visible in any of his online profile pictures. All a viewer will see are pictures of his pets, despite the fact that, many online dating sites require the user be visible in pictures. Another sign that Paul is a Pet Freak is that he will list his pets under the children category. Ladies! Run if he calls the dogs “his babies.” Should children come into the picture, those dogs will still come first!

Conditional Carl has a list of specific conditions that he is looking for in a woman. Frankly, he will probably have to keep looking, because no woman will ever meet his long list of obscure expectations. “The woman I’m looking for should be tall, but shorter than me. She should be able to cook or be willing to take lessons from my mom.” From a distance it may look as though Conditional Carl knows what he wants, but from the other side of the screen, he has probably missed out on meeting some really great women, because they didn’t fit his mold!

Motorcycle Mike is an enigma! He is able to morph into any number of physical forms. But the easiest way to spot him is by the large piece of metal between his legs! Motorcycle Mike, by nine to five job, could be a corporate lawyer, investment banker, doctor, teacher, salesman, store clerk, or construction worker. Motorcycle Mike would like women to believe that he spends every minute of his spare time on his bike. Sorry boys. Women are smarter than that! There are only so many months a year that are nice enough to ride. Compromise if it’s a hobby, but if he drives across the county, state or country, stop reading that profile. Another interesting thing to look at in those pictures…is he wearing a helmet or “brain bucket”? Sorry boys, but if a woman finds a guy she wants to spend forever with, then it might be nice if he hung around as long as possible!

Closely related to Motorcycle Mike would be NASCAR Ned. He wears only NASCAR sanctioned clothing. He has pictures of himself standing by the fence at several racetracks. He may even have a picture with a famous driver. However, the majority of these guys think they themselves are racers! They have turned their garages and barns into workshops. They put their car up on jacks to get a closer look when adding wiper fluid. While a man having some car sense might seem important to some girls, most prefer a man with sense enough to call a mechanic!

T-shirt Timmy, also known as “The Man Child” according to Glamour magazine, is another profile classification that can be easily identified by their pictures. T-shirt Timmy has one of two styles. Option A is that he wears the same dorky t-shirt all the time. It is highly likely, he owns the t-shirt that looks like a fake tux and has been known to wear it to a real wedding. T-shirt Timmy’s Option B is that he is wearing a different novelty t-shirt in each picture. He can probably also be seen in the same old jacket he’s been wearing for years and would be lost without it (Glamour 151). Without his jacket, T-shirt Timmy would be like Linus, who is lost without his blanket in the Charlie Brown comics.

Religious Rick is looking for a woman who has “Found her Savior, Jesus Christ.” He would like someone who is willing to live her life according to God’s law. Most people believe that God or a higher power plays a role in their lives, but Religious Rick is scaring away some nice girls, because all of his profile questions are answered with the mention of religion in one way or another. Most people feel that those who live a Christian lifestyle don’t need to go around telling everyone about it.

Faceless Frank displays no profile pictures because of his job, or the fact that he could be a hideous troll, or he is too embarrassed to be caught dead using an online dating website to find a woman. Women will occasionally overlook the fact that no picture is posted, but they move on if he has a long drawn-out explanation as to why there is no photo. However, it is a possibility that a member might be new and hasn’t got around to posting a picture, yet. Quite honestly, it is even possible that there are some guys who simply do not know how to post a picture. But, with all those things in mind, women believe, “If I show you mine, you should show me yours!” Women are smart enough to realize that the FBI does not have that many secret agents running around the Midwest.

Later Larry has figured out that if he answers all of the online dating profile questions the same way, he will not need to use his brain! “I’ll tell you later,” is Later Larry’s response to questions from eHarmony such as, “Describe the last book you read”, and “What is the first thing you wish people would notice about you?” Sorry Larry, but the message being sent is that you don’t have the time for dating. If you can’t provide some basic information about yourself, than what would you be willing to provide us in person?

Looking Louie is Later Larry’s best friend. “Just Looking” is unfortunately used way too often in the tagline of online dating profiles. Basically, it says that Looking Louie wants to find a ton of drop dead gorgeous women, stare at their pictures, and never make any decisions. “Dear Ladies, I’m not going to bother putting forth any sort of effort to come up with a tag line that is more creative. I will also not be creative in … well, ever!” Looking Louie would benefit from some online video dating as mentioned in the article by Ruth Mortimer.

In conclusion, online dating profiles have a large number of common elements. One of those common elements is that the creators and readers of online profiles are looking to find a connection with someone new. It is important to know that similar to works of fiction, online dating profiles can be far from the truth. Women must be cautious about the information they put in public domains. Yurchisin explains that one’s online dating profile will also help them find their true self (740). Now if only women could get the guys to take some more time writing profiles worth reading!

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